

S.N. 10/796,814

Art Unit 1742

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the formation of existing biofilm deposits on a wall in a water system comprising the steps of:

providing a capacitive electrostatic generator adapted to create an electrostatic field;

immersing said electrostatic generator in a body of water in the water system, the water system being connected to an electrical ground relative to an electromotive force available for energizing the electrostatic generator; and

~~reducing said existing biofilm deposits by~~ energizing said electrostatic generator with said electromotive force, such that a corresponding electrostatic field is created between said generator immersed in the water system and said electrical ground without measurable current leakage in the body of water;

wherein said capacitive electrostatic generator comprises a vitrified ceramic tube of unibody construction having an integrally-sealed end defining an inner cavity with an inner wall; conductive material contained within said inner cavity and disposed in intimate contact with said inner wall; electrically-insulated sealing means for providing hermetic closure to said inner cavity; and electrical means for energizing said conductive material with a static electromotive force.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said voltage is greater than about 10,000 volts DC.

S.N. 10/796,814

Art Unit 1742

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said voltage is greater than about 30,000 volts DC.